

# The NICHD Connection

## July 2018

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## Interesting Opportunity: Serving on the GSR Symposium Committee

By Laura Marler and Larissa Erben

**INTERESTING**  
★★★  
*Opportunity*

The annual NIH Graduate Student Research (GSR) Symposium highlights the vast diversity of graduate research at the NIH. The symposium, which takes place around the end of February, is the largest event for NIH graduate students, featuring over 100 student presentations. We served on the organizing committee for the 2018 symposium, gaining valuable experience in organizing and running a large event. Check out this interesting opportunity!

### THE GSR RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

The GSR Symposium Committee is a group of volunteer graduate students who organize the symposium in tight conjunction with the Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) and the Graduate Student Partnership Program (GPP) Director and Deputy Director.

The primary duties of the Symposium Committee include choosing and organizing scientific content for the event. In particular, the committee:

- » Suggests, selects, invites, and hosts the keynote speaker
- » Selects four student speakers, based on abstract submissions, for short oral presentations
- » Organizes practice talks with selected student speakers, who will speak in front of a broad audience
- » Organizes and conducts the elevator pitch competition
- » Helps draft and review the symposium program book
- » Serves as a contact point for students
- » Promotes the symposium to encourage student participation

OITE manages the administrative and organizational duties, such as selecting the date of the event, reserving the venue, printing the symposium program book and name tags, organizing poster numbers and judges for the poster award, catering, and arranging the graduation ceremony. The Graduate Student Council co-chairs choose and present the outstanding mentor awards.

### TIME COMMITMENT

As members of the committee, we found the time commitment to be relatively small. The committee has an initial meeting in early fall to begin planning the

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## Letter from the Editor

Priorities. Think about that word. A priority has precedence, an intrinsic rank, over other tasks in life. Priorities may change with time. One week could include extra attention on a challenging research problem, with another week spent focusing on family and friends. And as years pass in the lab, priorities can shift as your career goals narrow.

You will spend a large percentage of your time at the NIH prioritizing research. That is why you're here, after all. But at some point, making yourself a well-rounded, competitive job applicant will creep up in your priority list. Our feature articles this month, ["Academic Job Market Prep: A New Workshop Recap"](#) and ["Interesting Opportunity: Serving on the GSR Symposium Committee,"](#) highlight two opportunities to tackle those career development tasks.

I'll prioritize your time and say no more—other than enjoy!

Your Editor in Chief,  
Shana R. Spindler, PhD

Questions, comments, or ideas? Contact our editor at [Shana.Spindler@gmail.com](mailto:Shana.Spindler@gmail.com).



## Serving on the GSR Symposium Committee

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event, and then meets around once a month during the planning process. The most time-consuming task is the selection of student speakers, which required us to read through about 60 abstracts and choose the best four. Committee members are expected to attend practice talks by the student speakers and to carry out assigned roles on the day of the symposium.

The committee has a clear timeline and instructions throughout the planning phase. A close collaboration with GPP Deputy Director Dr. Phil Ryan, and task allocation within the committee, made it easy to accomplish everything on time.

### ROLES ON THE COMMITTEE

Members of the research symposium committee share symposium planning responsibilities. Shared duties include selecting the keynote and student speakers, crafting the agenda, writing an introduction for the symposium book, editing the draft program, and attending student practice talks.

Towards the end of the planning phase and at the event itself, individual roles emerge. For us, Laura invited our keynote speaker, Dr. Eric Betzig, and communicated with him throughout the process. During the event, she hosted Dr. Betzig and introduced him before his talk. Larissa organized the student talks, scheduled practice talks, wrote student bios, and introduced the student speakers. Two other committee members organized the elevator pitch competition and managed it during the symposium.

### POST-DOC, STAFF MEMBER AND OTHER NIH EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT

Each year, postdoctoral judges evaluate the student posters for the NIH Graduate Student Research Award and organize the specific research categories for the awards. Judging takes about an hour and half, and boxed lunches are provided. Plus, volunteer judges learn about the interesting research done by graduate students at the NIH.

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#### LARISSA ERBEN

*Graduate Student, Buonanno lab  
Partnership Institution: University  
of Bonn, Germany*

*Larissa investigates plasticity regulation by Neuregulin/ErbB4 signaling pathway associated with schizophrenia. She previously served with the Graduate Student Council (GSC) on the Social and Retreat Committee. This year, Larissa wanted experience in organizing a bigger scientific event.*



#### LAURA MARLER

*Graduate Student, Hinnebusch lab  
Partnership Institution: Johns  
Hopkins University*

*Laura studies ribosomal start codon recognition. She has participated in the Graduate Student Research Symposium for several years, but this year Laura wanted to be involved behind the scenes to help put the symposium together.*



## Serving on the GSR Symposium Committee

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### OUR INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCES

#### MOST VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

**LARISSA:** In organizing practice talks for student speakers, I learned how to give presentations, especially presentations for a broad audience (for example, how important it is to give a clear and broad introduction, how to capture the audience's attention, and how to avoid getting lost in the details).

**LAURA:** I learned about planning a scientific event from beginning to end. The most valuable part for me was communicating with our keynote speaker. I learned how to draft an email to invite a speaker for an event, and I had the opportunity to practice hosting a speaker in a professional capacity. Through the abstract selection process, I learned a lot about what a committee looks for and what makes an abstract stand out.

#### MOST DIFFICULT/STRESSFUL PART

**LARISSA:** The planning phase was not stressful at all. On the day itself, I was a little tense and hoped that everything went smoothly. The most stressful part for me was to be on stage and introduce the speakers. I was really nervous.

**LAURA:** I was nervous about hosting and introducing Dr. Betzig on the day of the symposium. Beyond that, the planning wasn't stressful. I think the most difficult part was choosing speakers from the abstracts that were submitted. There were too many that were really good!

#### PRIOR EXPERIENCE BEFORE JOINING THE COMMITTEE

**LARISSA:** There is essentially no prior experience required. Every graduate student starting from his/her first year can serve on the committee.

**LAURA:** It was very helpful to have a committee member who had served on the committee in previous years to give us advice and make sure that everything went smoothly, but there is no specific experience required for individual members. This is a good way to gain experience with organizing an event of this size.

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**Keynote speaker Dr. Eric Betzig with the 2018 NIH Graduate Student Research Symposium Committee**  
From left to right: Keyla Tumas (NIAID, Georgetown University), Laura Marler (NICHD, Johns Hopkins University), Dr. Eric Betzig, Lampouguin Yenkoidiok Douti (NIAID, University of Maryland, College Park), Ruby Lam (NCCIH, Brown University), Larissa Erben (NICHD, University of Bonn)



## Serving on the GSR Symposium Committee

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### OVERALL IMPRESSION OF SERVING ON THE COMMITTEE

**LARISSA:** I would highly recommend serving on the Graduate Student Research Symposium Committee, or if you are not a graduate student, on any other similar committee. It builds teamwork, leadership, and organizational skills. Moreover, I obtained valuable insights into the organization of such a big event.

**LAURA:** I would certainly recommend serving on the committee. I gained a lot of valuable experience in a timeframe that didn't put strain on my lab duties, and I greatly enjoyed meeting and working with the committee members.

### A THANK YOU TO OUR FELLOW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We want to thank our fellow committee members for organizing the event together and for sharing this invaluable experience with us. In addition, thank you to Dr. Phil Ryan and Dr. Phil Wang for their guidance; Dr. Sharon Milgram and the OITE staff for their contributions in planning and holding the event; Drs. Jodian Brown, Gail Seabold and Angel Abner de la Cruz Landau for organizing the judging for the poster awards; the 2017 GSC co-chairs Keyla Tumas and Carly Starke for managing the outstanding mentor awards; Dr. Eric Betzig for his enthusiasm and willingness to deliver the keynote; the student speakers; and all poster presenters and judges.

The 2018 NIH Graduate Student Research Symposium included:

- Two poster sessions
- Four short oral presentations by graduate students
- An elevator pitch competition (a lively and entertaining opening to the symposium, where graduate students present their projects in two minutes, without slides or other visual aids)
- A keynote lecture (Nobel laureate Dr. Eric Betzig delivered this year's keynote)
- Presentation of outstanding mentors
- Poster awards (NIH Graduate Student Research Awards)
- Graduate ceremony honoring students who defended their dissertations in the past year

Find more information about the symposium and the program book here: <https://www.training.nih.gov/gsc/symposium/14th>



## Academic Job Market Prep: New Workshop Series Recap

By Erin Walsh, PhD

The academic job market can be an intimidating place, especially as the expectations placed upon young scientists continue to increase. Most fellows are aware of the importance of publishing their work, mentoring other trainees, and writing grants. However, all too often we can forget to step outside of our laboratory bubbles, take a more holistic view at our skills and training experiences, and ask ourselves *what else can I do to better market myself professionally?*

On June 12, 2018, the NICHD Office of Education kicked off a new workshop series, “Preparing for the Academic Job Market,” aimed to help fellows prepare for the academic job search. Lauren Celano, cofounder of the life sciences search and career development firm [Propel Careers](#), led the first two workshops. Her morning session focused on how fellows can gain the skills and experience needed for academic jobs, while the afternoon session focused on how to highlight these experiences within job application materials (CV, cover letter, research statement, and teaching statement).

Much of the first workshop focused on ways fellows can develop their research, teaching, mentoring, service, and communication skills. The skills necessary for academic positions depend on the type of academic institution to which you apply: research intensive, teaching intensive, or comprehensive, with equal research and teaching responsibilities. Lauren recommended creating a skill development plan. For each job position, list the skills necessary for that role, indicating if the skill is a “must have” or “nice to have” and if you have that skill already. If not, describe how you will develop that specific skill.

Lauren’s presentation offered a helpful perspective—there are multiple ways (and no single “right way”) to develop new skills.

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While you work on your application materials, please feel free to reach out to the NICHD Office of Education at [erin.walsh@nih.gov](mailto:erin.walsh@nih.gov) if you would like a copy of Lauren’s presentation slides, which she was gracious enough to share with us.





## Academic Job Market Prep

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The good news is that most of us are already working on many of these skills without realizing the value of our daily activities. Below are a few examples, including keywords and phrases you can use in application materials:

- » Propose a new research direction or focus
- » Acquire the necessary resources to enable the new research
- » Initiate collaborations
- » Identify collaborators to work with to solve a research problem
- » Manage communication with collaborators regarding timelines and deliverables
- » Lead teams of people with diverse backgrounds and scientific expertise
- » Manage relationships and negotiate purchasing discounts with scientific vendors
- » Develop new research tools
- » Identify funding sources
- » Engage in research with non-profit organizations

Lauren pointed out that many fellows are not aware of some of the skills that can be helpful in securing an academic position. For instance, having budgeting and negotiation experience is of great value for fellows who plan to start their own labs, since they will likely be operating on relatively small start-up funds. Perhaps you worked with a newly hired investigator, or you were part of a lab that moved to a new institution. Previous experience in setting up a lab, or even a piece of equipment, are examples applicants might want to highlight in application materials to show they possess the skills necessary for starting a lab and managing the resources.

Outside the lab, Lauren emphasized the importance of service and leadership experience. Most fellows are able to find committees to serve on within the NIH, but becoming involved in outreach groups or disease-focused nonprofit organizations could be ways for you to stand out among other applicants on the job market. Taking the initiative to form your own committee or establish your own seminar series within your institution are other unique ways you can highlight your leadership skills.

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## Academic Job Market Prep

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Lauren's afternoon workshop focused on how to prepare application materials for academic jobs. She reviewed the curriculum vitae (CV), cover letter, research statement, and teaching statement. This session was more interactive in style, and Lauren provided numerous examples for each application section, including different ways to format and organize each document.

Beyond formatting and organization, Lauren emphasized how important it is to be mindful of each position's teaching and research requirements, adjusting your research and teaching plans appropriately. If you are applying for a position at a small, teaching-intensive liberal arts school where you are expected to establish a small research program, create a targeted research plan with a scope that is feasible given the resources the institute can provide. Perhaps your research time, lab space, or funds will be limited. If expensive equipment, facilities, or analyses are essential for your work, take the initiative to establish (or propose) collaboration with an investigator at a neighboring research-intensive institution, and include those details in your research statement.

For the next part of the "Preparing for the Job Market" workshop series, Lauren Celano will return on Tuesday, July 10, and Wednesday, July 11, to give one-on-one coaching sessions to fellows interested in discussing careers in academia or industry. She will also offer help and feedback on application materials. Check out the [July Events](#) section for more information.



## The Rep Report

By Suna Gulay, PhD

As the current NICHD Basic Sciences IC Representative, I represent NICHD postdoctoral fellows at the FelCom meeting every month and share the latest news with you here. Do you have a concern or question that you want brought up at the next meeting? Contact me at [suna.gulay@nih.gov](mailto:suna.gulay@nih.gov)!



The FAES Board of Directors have approved the following changes to the trainee health insurance starting November 2018:

- » 5% co-pay will be required for many services
- » Infertility treatment will no longer be covered (currently 50% covered)
- » 10% co-pay, up to \$150 max, for specialty drugs. The deductible (\$250/individual), out-of-pocket maximum (\$2,500/individual) and the co-pay for generic and preferred drugs remain the same.

FAES points out that the new program is still more generous than comparable programs at other institutions. If fellows have concerns about potential future changes and co-pay increases, FAES liaison [Eric Refsland](#) encourages them to contact the [FAES Health Insurance Department](#) and the [Board of Directors](#) with their concerns.

[Scientific Interest Groups](#) are great ways to present your research to scientists with common scientific interests and learn about the latest research in your field. One of the newest additions to this list is the Neurobiology Interest Group. They are welcoming NIH fellow presentations on every aspect of Neuroscience—from molecular basics to behavioral studies. Follow [this link](#) to request the opportunity to present in the seminar series and to see the current seminar schedule.

NIH is a sustaining member of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA), allowing all NIH fellows and employees to become affiliate NPA members for free. You can use your membership to access various career development resources, participate in committees, and get discounts on the NPA annual meeting (a great networking opportunity!). You can find more information on NPA membership benefits [here](#). If interested, [register here](#) and select *Affiliate Individual Member – Postdoc*.

The new social media initiative aiming to gather all NIH postdoctoral and clinical fellows together has a tentative name: Bethesda Postdocs. Over the summer, FelCom members will begin testing the system and posting content. We are hoping to open this platform to all postdoc and clinical fellows in September. If you are interested in being part of the planning phases of this initiative, while improving your communication and leadership skills, please contact FelCom Public Relations Subcommittee co-chair [Alexis Carter](#).



## Dr. Jakob Gutzmann Receives 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in 2018 TmT Competition

Launched in 2014, the Three-minute-Talk (TmT) competition is an annual event where fellows from across several NIH institutes present their research in three minutes or less to a broad scientific audience. On Thursday, June 28, four NICHD finalists competed for a chance to win first, second, or third place in the competition. We are proud to announce that Dr. Jakob Gutzmann, postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Dax Hoffman's laboratory, took home third place! In honor of our finalists, check out their research (in three sentences or less!) below.

### LARISSA ERBEN

*Graduate student (Buonanno lab)*

Alternative splicing is frequently altered in diseases. The developed *in situ* hybridization assay overcomes sensitivity limits of previous techniques and allows for the detection of small RNA sequences such as splice variants. Using single exon mutant mice, we validated the specificity of this technique and then analyzed splice variants of a gene associated with schizophrenia.

### DR. LINDSEY FRIEND

*Postdoctoral fellow (Serpe lab)*

Synapses are fundamental units of communication and computation in the nervous system, and defects in synaptogenesis contribute to numerous neurological disorders; however, the initial recruitment of neurotransmitter receptors is poorly understood. I work with Dr. Mihaela Serpe's lab studying synaptic development using the *Drosophila* neuromuscular junction as a model of excitatory synapses. My goal is to identify and study proteins that are required to deliver and stabilize neurotransmitter receptors at the synaptic site.

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2018 TmT Competition Winners, from left to right: Stacey Desine (1<sup>st</sup> place), Dr. Jakob Gutzmann (3<sup>rd</sup> place), and Katherine Gribbons (2<sup>nd</sup> place).



## Dr. Jakob Gutzmann Receives 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in 2018 TmT Competition

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**DR. JAKOB GUTZMANN (THIRD PLACE WINNER)**  
*Postdoctoral fellow (Hoffman lab)*

Electrical activity in the brain sometimes goes awry, and this can lead to diseases like epilepsy. I use electrophysiological recordings in the hippocampus of mouse knock out models to understand how the interplay between potassium and calcium ion channels affects signal integration and output of the neuron. My research will help us understand the mutual effect that ion channels have on each other to control electrical activity in the brain.

**DR. KAREN PLEVOCK HAASE**  
*Postdoctoral fellow (Dasso lab)*

My current research focuses on the basic mechanisms that drive an aging program. To investigate this fundamental aging process, we use *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model system. Using this system, we can address the underlying questions of what drives aging using transcriptomics and functional genomics.



2018 Three-minute-Talk competitors from NICHD, NHGRI, NEI, NIAMS, and NIDCR





Life Outside Lab

2018  
*Endocrine  
Fellows'  
Graduation*

JUNE 15, 2018





## Upcoming NIH-Wide Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) Events

For more information and registration, please visit [Upcoming OITE Events](#).

**Planning for Career Satisfaction and Success** (Thursday, July 5)

**Creating and Presenting a Dynamic Poster** (Friday, July 6)

**NIH Career Development Series for High School Students: I. Self-Awareness and Relationships with Others** (Monday, July 9)

**Summer Lecture Series I: Dr. Eric Green** (Wednesday, July 11)

**OITE Orientation for New NIH Postbacs: Getting What You Came For** (Thursday, July 12)

**NIH Career Development Series for High School Students: II. Career Exploration** (Monday, July 16)

**2018 Graduate & Professional School Fair** (Wednesday, July 18)

**Workplace Dynamics IV: Team Skills** (Thursday, July 19)

**What Can You Do in College to Enhance Your Chances of Getting into Medical or Graduate School** (Friday, July 20)

**NIH Career Development Series for High School Students: III. Success in College** (Monday, July 23)

**Talking Science: Designing and Delivering Successful Oral Presentations** (Tuesday, July 24)

**Think, Ink, and Network** (Thursday, July 26)

**NIH Career Development Series for High School Students: IV. Professional Communication** (Monday, July 30)



## July Announcements

### 2018 MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS: LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE!

**Nomination deadline is MONDAY, JULY 30**

The time has come for you to nominate your fellow or PI for the **2018 NICHD Mentor of the Year Awards**. This is your chance to recognize an individual in the Division of Intramural Research (DIR) whose mentoring has made a difference in your life at the NIH!

Below is the link to obtain information about the NICHD's two annual intramural Mentor of the Year Awards, one for a **fellow**, and one for an **investigator**. Please submit your nomination form and a 500-word (maximum) narrative electronically to Dr. Yvette Pittman ([yvette.pittman@nih.gov](mailto:yvette.pittman@nih.gov)), or contact her if you have any questions about the nomination instructions or selection process.

Awardees will be announced at the NICHD DIR & DIPHR Scientific Retreat on Tuesday, September 4.

<https://science.nichd.nih.gov/confluence/display/fellows/Mentor+of+the+Year+Awards>



### DUE NEXT MONTH: INTRAMURAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (IRF)

***Funding opportunity for all NICHD fellows***

Last year, DIR launched the **Intramural Research Fellowship (IRF)**, a competitive research funding opportunity for NICHD postdoctoral, visiting, and clinical fellows. Its main objective is to promote grant writing among our intramural trainees, while enhancing awareness of the various components of an NIH grant application.

**The IRF submission date is Monday, August 6, 2018.**

For more information on the IRF, please visit NICHD Intramural Research Fellowship.

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## July Announcements

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### **SAVE THE DATE: TRAINING SCIENTISTS AS PROJECT MANAGERS, AUGUST 2-3** **[BioTech 71](#) | Project Management Training for Scientists | 2-Day Training**

The Office of Education will sponsor up to five NICHD fellows and graduate students to participate in a two-day FAES training course on project management. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Yvette Pittman ([yvette.pittman@nih.gov](mailto:yvette.pittman@nih.gov)).

Please be sure your mentor supports your attendance since it requires two full days away from the lab.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Project management is the application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques to a broad range of activities in order to meet the requirements of the particular project. These results are defined in terms of four factors: cost, schedule, performance, and scope.

Cost is the budget allocated to the project; schedule is the timeline for the project's deliverables; scope is the magnitude of the job; and performance has to do with how well the team members do their work.

This two-day course provides a comprehensive introduction to the essential aspects of project management for scientists. The course will draw on relevant case studies and prepare participants to apply learning from the course in their organizations. Specifically, the course covers the following key areas:

- » Introduction to Project Management
- » Project Lifecycle
- » Initiation Phase
- » Introduction to Planning Phase – The Project Plan
- » Creating the Budget
- » Project Manager Responsibility vs. Team's Responsibility
- » Risk and Change Management

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## July Announcements

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### SAVE THE DATE: LUNCH AND DISCUSSION WITH EARLY STAGE INVESTIGATORS, AUGUST 6

The Office of Education will host four tenure-track investigators from the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of South Dakota. The investigators will give 20-minute chalk talks on their work, share their experiences, and answer questions about the academic application/interview process.

This will be an informal, small-group session. You will learn:

- » What search committees are interested in
- » The types of questions search committees ask
- » Tips for both phone and in-person interviews
- » Skills that are most needed to be successful
- » What you can do throughout your NIH training to be prepared
- » How to give an effective research chalk talk

This will be a great opportunity to gain insight about the transition from fellow to investigator and to hear about day-to-day life on the tenure track. If you are interested in attending, please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at [yvette.pittman@nih.gov](mailto:yvette.pittman@nih.gov).

### SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER POSTER DAY, AUGUST 9

Summer Poster Day 2018 will be held on Thursday, August 9, at the Natcher Conference Center (Building 45) on the main campus in Bethesda from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The deadline for summer interns to submit poster titles for Summer Poster Day 2018 is **TUESDAY, JULY 10**, at 5:00 p.m. You can read more about Summer Poster Day at [https://www.training.nih.gov/summer\\_poster\\_day](https://www.training.nih.gov/summer_poster_day).

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## July Announcements

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### SAVE THE DATE: GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP, AUGUST 21

#### **"Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals"**

Tuesday, August 21, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

This workshop will address both practical and conceptual aspects that are important to the proposal writing process. Attendees will receive the "Grant Writer's Workbook" – an invaluable, up-to-date reference tool for those who intend to write NIH grant proposals.

The way in which NIH research-grant proposals are both prepared and reviewed will be specifically covered in the seminar. Topics to be addressed include:

- » A detailed format for the preparation of the 12-page application
- » Description of how to prepare a compelling Specific Aims section
- » A discussion of funding the applications of New/Early Stage Investigators
- » Insights into which review criteria are most important
- » How to include review of literature and presentation of preliminary data in the Approach section
- » Tighter linkage of sections of the application to each of the five core review criteria

There are only 25 slots for NICHD fellows. If you would like to register, please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at [yvette.pittman@nih.gov](mailto:yvette.pittman@nih.gov).

### SAVE THE DATE: PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP, AUGUST 24 (PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE)

#### **"Speaking about Science" with Scott Morgan**

Friday, August 24, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

"Speaking about Science" is a highly interactive workshop led by public speaking coach Scott Morgan. The core of this workshop is a nine-step preparation process that ensures a clear and engaging talk for a variety of audiences. Learn strategies for improving your delivery of lab talks or giving presentations at big meetings.

Topics include: presenting data, identifying theme and focus, creating effective visual aids, and beginning and ending a talk. Participants in this program will also have the opportunity to schedule an individual one-hour coaching session prior to a scheduled presentation.

To register for this workshop, please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at [yvette.pittman@nih.gov](mailto:yvette.pittman@nih.gov).



## July Events

TUESDAY, JULY 10, AND WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

**Preparing for the Job Market: Individual Coaching Sessions with Lauren Celano of [Propel Careers](#)**

Lauren Celano will be available for 30- or 60-minute one-on-one sessions with fellows. The content of these sessions is flexible—feel free to discuss and ask questions about anything related to careers in academia or industry, and/or receive feedback on application materials (CV, cover letter, research statement, or teaching statement).

Only a limited number of slots are available. Please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at [yvette.pittman@nih.gov](mailto:yvette.pittman@nih.gov) if you would like to sign up for a session with Lauren.

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 11 AM

**Informational Session for Future PRAT Applicants**  
Building 31, Room 2A48

*Learn how to prepare for PRAT application submission and receive valuable documents*

The NIGMS Postdoctoral Research Associate (PRAT) Program supports postdoctoral fellowships within the NIH Intramural Research Program. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States with no more than two years of postdoctoral experience at NIH by the time of appointment to the PRAT program. **The deadline for application submission is October 3.** Please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at [yvette.pittman@nih.gov](mailto:yvette.pittman@nih.gov) if you plan to attend.

More information about the program can be found at <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/Pages/PRAT.aspx>.